There has been no disruption in supplies of imported crude oil so far on account of the on-going US-Iraq war. The Government has prepared a contingency plan to ensure security of supplies during the US-Iraq war.

Strike by marketing staff of IOC

2725. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge shortage of LPG, petrol and diesel throughout the country due to long drawn out 'work to rule' protest by the workmen and junior officers handling the marketing of these products of IOC;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for the agitation of the employees of IOC; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate the grievances of the agitators and to tide over the huge shortfall in the supply/ specially of LPG to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The 'work to rule' was resorted to by a section of workmen of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Northern, Western and Southern Region during the period 10th March to 21st March, 2003 to raise the issues pertaining to grant of computer advance and maintenance reimbursement, contract labour, restructuring and organisational issues. Due to this, LPG backlog of 2 to 10 days and partial dry out of Retail Outlets were reported from some merkets. However, the market demand was met through the hospitality assistance taken from other Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to supplement the supplies and through the Retail Outlets/ LPG distributorship of the other OMCs. The management has prevailed upon the unions to desist from agitation by persuasive efforts and also due to an injuction obtained from the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.